



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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DATE: January 6, 1983

TO: Division File ✓

FROM: Tom Powell TEP Southern Region

SUBJECT: LPC - General - St. Clair County - Cahokia/Dead Creek

This office has received reports that recent heavy rainfalls have had an impact on Dead Creek. The amount of water within the creek is as high as this writer has seen since the Agency became aware of the situation in the spring of 1980.

On January 4, 1983, Tony Townsen, the Health and Safety Officer of Cahokia, contacted this office to say that water is flowing through the blocked culvert under Judith Street. Officer Townsen was concerned that water from the contaminated portions of the creek would wash contaminants downstream. Officer Townsen was told that there is little that the Agency could do to correct the situation as it now exists, but that the Agency could sample the water as it flows under Judith to see if there is a problem.

On January 5, 1983, this office received a call from Nancy Batson, 102 Walnut St., Cahokia, 618/337-4089. Mrs. Batson lives next to the borrow pit that is adjacent to Dead Creek. She stated that water is flowing into her basement at an alarming rate and that a sump pump must be operated 24 hours a day. She wondered that if perhaps some of this water could be contaminated, since a strange faint odor is noticeable at times. After a short discussion within this office, this writer contacted Mrs. Batson to say that someone would be out, later in the day, to sample the water in her basement.

This writer arrived in the area at approximately 3:00 p.m. that afternoon. A water sample was then obtained from the south side of Judith, where the blocked culvert discharged. The water level on the south side was above the culvert. Subsequently, it was impossible to estimate the flow rate. A water sample was collected, however, near an eddy on the south side. (See lab sheets) The freeboard on the north side of Judith was approximately 4-5 feet, so the likelihood of the water running over Judith was remote. After obtaining this sample, this writer proceeded to the Batson residence to obtain a water sample from the basement. As stated previously, water was entering the basement at a substantial rate. Mrs. Batson was told that after results are received from the lab she would be notified. With the samples in hand, this writer left the site.

TEP:jlr

cc: Southern Region

RECEIVED

JAN 7 1983

E.P.A. - D.L.P.C.
STATE OF ILLINOIS